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FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 11, 1921

By the very constitution of our
nature moral evil is its own curse.
—Chalmers.

The Regulatory Power

Whether or not the rates of the fire insurance companies are too high in Arizona or whether they are inequitable and discriminatory the principle of regulation is involved in the senate bill providing for a supervision of their rates. Associated as nearly all the fire insurance companies, though for protection against one another and to prevent throat cutting, the companies are in a position if they desired to do so to enforce any demand however unreasonable it might be upon a helpless public.

Fire insurance may not be a monopoly as Mr. Justice McKenna admitted in his opinion sustaining the Kansas regulatory law, but through the association of a very large number of the very strong companies, it had become monopolistic in its character, and we may add in its form.

It is denied by insurance men that fire insurance is a public utility and they claim that it ought not to be treated as such. Yet we are coming to regard any business which dispenses its service to a large number of people and which is unrestrained by competitive rates of remuneration for that service, as a monopoly.

Forty years ago the public did not need protection against monopolies as it does now. There were few monopolies. Competition was sharp and served the people against extortion. So sharp, in fact, had competition become that railroad companies at which regulation was at first directed were engaged in ruinous internecine wars. The public suffered mainly only from discrimination and uncertainty as to the time when these wars would end and the railroads under a truce would levy tribute to meet the costs of the late conflict.

The same arguments which the railroad companies put forward against government regulation have been advanced against every proposed extension of the regulatory power. There is perhaps now not anywhere in the land, even among the railroad owners one who questions the righteousness of government control of the roads, its advantages not only to patrons but to the roads themselves. And we believe that in a few years we shall welcome this control over every activity which serves a large number of people and which itself is under no other restriction than that laid upon it by the conscience of the directors of the activity.

We will concede that the power of regulation is sometimes abused or is unwisely, unjustly and incompetently administered; that at times public utilities companies have been oppressed. These cases though have been comparatively rare and the oppressed have found their remedies in courts.

But because this power has at times been abused is no reason why it should be destroyed. Governments have often been unjust and oppressive but that is no argument in favor of the destruction of organized government and a resort to anarchy.

Mr. Gompers and Coal Control

We do not see why Mr. Gompers should be "apprehensive" of the effect of the Calder bill fixing the price of coal, upon organized labor, unless it should make the cost of labor a part of the basis in the price fixing. Of course labor largely enters into the cost of production of coal and it naturally is the greatest factor in an honest price, though it has always been a comparatively small part of the price which the coal operators have extorted from the public. Investigations conducted by congress show that some, if not all the large operators last year netted a profit of 200 per cent. Of the price that yielded such a profit as that the cost of the actual mining of the coal was an insignificant part.

There have been few wage conflicts between the operators and the operatives. There have been disturbances in some of the mines and idleness, it is suspected in some cases, engineered by the operators for the purpose of curtailing production. It was easier to make a profit by raising the price of coal than by producing more coal. The owners have generally been content to allow the miners good wages as that afforded some basis or show of basis for the extortionate price the consumer was to be asked to pay.

No doubt Mr. Gompers believes that if the government should assume the responsibility for the price of coal it would also take notice of the contributors to the price and it would be less liberal to the miners than the companies are when they find that they can exploit miners' wages to their own advantage.

Are we to understand that Mr. Gompers does not want rapacity controlled if the control is likely to affect members of his own organization?

Seeing America Abroad

Motion picture films exported from the United States last year aggregated 47,000 miles in length, almost enough to encircle the globe twice.

American films mostly picture American life. American people in American cities, fields, shops, homes. Often they are not faithful portraits, but in the main, they give the audience a fairly accurate idea of what America and Americans are like.

This being so, one can see how it is that, as the export of these films mounts higher and higher, going farther and farther round the globe, the time is coming when natives of distant lands will have an eye-witness knowledge of Americans and the way we live, work and play.

In other words, the export film is making it possible for the "wild man of Borneo," the Hottentot, the Mongol, the Tartar, and the more knowing European to see America without crossing oceans.

As the films penetrate jungle, climb mountains, spread over tropics and slide over arctic ices, it becomes more and more true that no country is as well known the world over as the United States; that no people are seen by so many as the Americans.

No Meddling With Russia

Another champion of French and English capitalists who invested heavily in Russian rubles before the revolution is heralded in the foreign dispatches. Two others have gone before—and failed.

The United States can have no legitimate interest in attempting to overthrow the government, even of a Trotsky and Lenin, either in the interests of French and English investors who have been caught short, or for the glory of a possible genuine Russian minority leader.

Our own slogan, under the Monroe Doctrine, is "America for Americans." With regard to eastern Europe it should be, "Russia for the Russians."

And in the meantime, if it will add to American prosperity and the well-being of American citizens for us to trade with these Bolsheviks that Europe doesn't like, then who is to say us nay? We don't have to fall on their necks ourselves, just to do business with them.

"No meddling with Russia, and no trade boycotts," will be the best American policy. If Wilson doesn't see to it, Harding should.

When a prohibition enforcement agent engages in the business of bootlegging his activity may be described as an "inside job." Everything is in his favor and he should succeed unless his work should degenerate into foolish crudeness. So numerous are his advantages and so few are the chances of his detection that we ought to have special penalties for him in the case of his detection. Moreover, he should be punished as a sort of traitor, the violator of his oath and trust. He not only commits crime on a broader scale than the bootlegger, but he brings the whole service into disrepute.

The Ohio State Journal makes public something that may lead to the overcrowding of an honorable profession: "The fact that President Wilson, who has had no special experience in this noble profession, was offered \$150,000 for one newspaper article may give the public some idea of what we regular editors get."

Third-class yeoman stole \$72,000 from Norfolk navy yard. He deserves a higher rating.

The next generation will wonder what folk meant when they said: "He's sowing his wild oats."

We haven't noticed that girls are less bold and daring now than in leap year.

Timely weather note: Freeze onto your job.

"Farm life may have its drawbacks," says Farmer Jones, "but we ain't pestered with bandits."

The Boston Herald asks if there are any favors the government should grant the farmer and not the copper miner and fisherman. Leave it to Boston to mention copper and fish.

MEDITATE AN HOUR

It is truly a great philosophy that Walt Whitman, American poet, left as his legacy to the world. He it was who wrote:

"I loaf and invite my soul."
There is never a person but that some time in his life needs self-communion. A balancing as it were, of the profit and loss of his account with himself.

We are prone to smile over the old-fashioned "hour of meditation." And yet it is living, not life, that has changed. We are the same; in our weakness or strength, in capability or limitations.

But living is more complex, more strenuous, especially for women.

We are making history at the rate of a year a day if we compare these times with all the ages that have gone before. If our grandmothers needed intervals of solitude, do not we?

Self-knowledge is a positive essential of success.

CHEER UP!

By WHIT HADLEY

Lowell said: "And he who waits to have his task marked out, shall die and leave his errand unfulfilled."

Charles Lee Cook, Louisville millionaire, is a cripple without legs. He was born in poverty, taken from school when seven, and has never walked in his life.

Last year he refused a \$40,000 a year job. During a recent examination he displayed a vocabulary of 37,000 words and defined 15,000 synonyms.

He studied mechanics in a wheel chair, invented the automatic lubricating devices used on all trans-Atlantic ships, designed and built at Brunswick, Ga., the largest crescenting works in the world, and has now made a device which enables one man to do the work of thirty skilled mechanics.

For 12 years he toiled in obscurity in his father's stable working 17 hours a day in his wheel chair.

Twenty-nine years ago Louis Jay Horowitz arrived, an immigrant from Poland.

His first job was errand boy at \$3 a week.

Today he is one of the greatest builders in the world, a place to which he has risen by grit, vision and ability to overcome obstacles. He is president of the Thompson-Starrett Co., of New York.

He says:
"Every man, no matter how old, has it in his power to fix the value of his services, and in a great measure to determine them."

Philip Curtis, who has written the successful new serial, "Wanted—A Fool," says:

"I have never lost my original conviction that a man's best bet is to sink or swim on his chosen line."

REMARKABLE REMARKS

"In recent years we have devised tests for measuring human intelligence, but we find alarmingly little intelligence to measure."—Dr. William L. Burnham, Clark University.

"I believe there is more wildcatting in all than in anything else in the world."—Sir James Loughheed, Canadian Minister of the Interior.

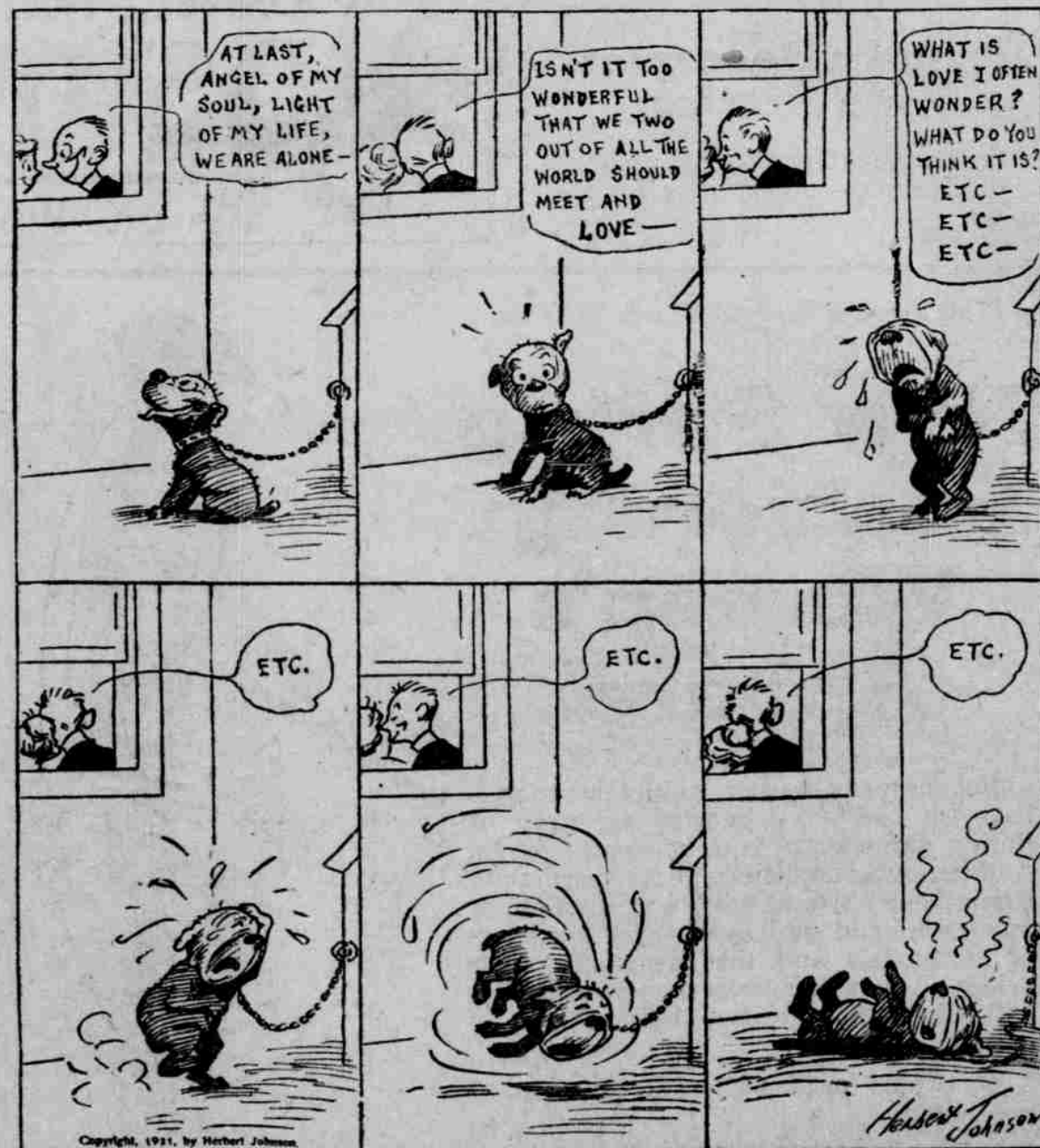
"Eventually an American passenger steamship service without liquor will outstrip the passenger service of any nation which thinks it must dispense a poison liquid to get the patronage of intelligent people."—Wayne B. Wheeler, Anti-Saloon League.

"In the matter of our supplies of forest products, we are living beyond our income and destroying our capital at the same time."—Gifford Pinchot.

"The house-cat is a more deadly peril to bird-life, and therefore to the farmer's prosperity, than all the hawks, owls, weasels and foxes in the country."—Henry Ford.

In reply to statements that the motor industry is approaching the point of "saturation," the Liberty National Bank of New York has published a study of the subject which points out that there are but 200,000 trucks and 8,000,000 motor cars in service in this country to supply the needs and wishes of 105,000,000 people.

What a Friend of Her Family Has to Listen To.—By Herbert Johnson



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THE SOLUTION

By DR. FRANK CRANE
(Copyright, 1920, by Frank Crane)

I have received from Mrs. Chris Hanson of River Falls, Wisconsin, the solution.

To what?
It makes no difference. That is the beauty of it. Whatever be your problem, this is its solution.

That is the admirable quality of perfect wisdom. Whatever you ask of it the answer is the same, and you can make it mean whatever you please.

This satisfies everybody. And there is peace on earth and all through the asylum.

Without further prelude let me give you Mrs. Hanson's words. I assure you it is her exact language, set down, as near as it is possible to reproduce it in formal type, verbatim, literatim, et punctuatim.

"There is always," she says, "an indicator to reveal facts as they are, in any undertaking that becomes an Enterprise, with clockwork regularity."

That is its great charm, its regularity. But to resume.

"We have before us," she allows, "in the United States and elsewhere here, in this Universe a system that is seesaw, between Boosters and Knockers, at high tide and low ebb, so twofold in this our figure 8 hourglass hour and hour, so twofold, suspended in mid-air between hell & heaven & between God & Mammon, while eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil."

We have often thought so. And it is, we know, a pleasure not only to us but to our readers to find thus stated in clear language what they have felt but hardly dared to hope.

Again, in her clear and limpid way, Mrs. Hanson continues to unlock puzzle after puzzle. Politics, religion, anything, no matter how hard, is pie to her. She goes on:

"We try to give as good as we get. It for tat at the Litigate Gate with its seesaw Gait, in a pro and con tick tock way fling along where turn about is fair play, be it in behalf of the Republican Party, or the Democratic Party, that is to manage the U. S."

Oh, that our statesmen could but realize this! And then—
"Admitted to the seesaw Bar, Lawyers & all, in this Alley World of Ours, being a makeshift world so shifty."

Who can deny that?

"As we enter in and venture forth," she continues, with rare poetic insight, "in an decisive way, we eat of the tree of Knowledge" (and we fear that Mrs. Chris has segregated from the general mass more than she can masticate), "both rate and mate, with offspring, in the Grades, as up & down we come & go, from A to G & to A forthright after fortnight, week in & week out, in an appearing and disappearing way, as grass beneath our feet."

Think it over. As for us, we have never seen the argument for the Fourth Dimension better stated.

WATCHING THE PARADE

BY JOHN PILGRIM

Every time I pass Carlo Italian's little fruit-stand I am reminded of an old Indian trapper I used to know. He always put medicine on his traps, he said. If he had a good season it was a sign that his medicine was particularly potent. If the trapper who ran the line next to his beat him out on the winter's work it was obviously because the other fellow had the better medicine.

"I gettin' long fine," says Carlo to me with a grin. "Dis-a dam-a good-a town. Evvabody nice-a to me."

Right next door is a fine, big fruit-stand, all glittering with plateglass and gold letters. The delivery wagon looks more like an up-to-date one-horse hearse than any delivery wagon I ever seen. The proprietor lives in a white jacket and is strong on decorating his place with green stuff and red and yellow paper. But you do not see as many housewives buying of him as you see buy of Carlo. They look around his stand, bag on one arm, and that worried, peering expression on the face that all good housewives have when they go marketing. Then they drop into Carlo's place.

"Dis-a fella," Carlo confided to me, "he no treat-a dem wimmen nice. He try scare 'em into pay big price, mebbe. Dese-a wimmen, dey say:

"Dem-a apple, now—dem-a good apple!" And he say:

"Keep hands off dem-a apple. Don-a touch. I tell you dem-a apple might' good apple." But I don't tell 'em that. I say:

"Have-a good pinch-a dat apple, Meester. She's fine apple. If dat-a not good apple, you bring um back. I want for please-a you."

I understand Carlo's medicine, I think. He says "thank you" and "come again" and is helpful and courteous. He tells me the other man's shop will soon be for sale.

FORTY YEARS AGO TODAY

From the Phoenix Herald, which was absorbed by The Arizona Republican in 1899, and for a time was published as an evening edition

Friday, February 11, 1881

The bill to incorporate Phoenix has been amended as follows:

The first election under the provisions of this act shall be held in the city of Phoenix at the court house on the first Tuesday in May, 1881. At such election J. T. Alsop and Charles Goldman will act as Judges thereof, and Thomas Brown inspector thereof.

The laws of this territory in relation to election and canvass of votes certifying to the election of officers and notifying them of their election shall apply to first election in said city so far as they are applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of this act.

Legislature

Prescott, February 11.—House has passed a memorial asking for the establishment of a branch of the United States mint at Phoenix, Maricopa county.

Also bill preventing the storage of explosives within one and one-half miles of the exterior limits of any town. House bill No. 15, to amend section

5, chapter 15, compiled laws, permitting the governor to call an extra session whenever he deems it necessary occupied the entire session to the present time.

An interesting letter from Jonesville was crowded out today.

The bucket shop printing office will defend the supervisors in their action in consequence of charging \$15 for a \$2 job, and don't you forget it.

"Editor Herald:—I notice the board of supervisors yesterday allowed a bill of \$230, or \$250 apiece for three chairs to C. T. Hayden while I would furnish the same article at \$325 each. Is it right for this county debt-reducer to so overcharge us when it is his sworn duty to protect and free from debt. TAXPAYER."

Question by the taxpayers: If the printing of ten blanks by the supervisors is worth \$1, how much are 50 of the same kind worth? Answer by our supervisors: \$10. And is the above a sample of how our hundred thousand debt is to be reduced?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Any reader can give the answer to any question by writing The Republican Information Bureau, Frederic J. Haekin, Director, Washington, D. C. This offer applies strictly to information. The bureau cannot give advice on legal, medical, and financial matters. It does not attempt to settle domestic troubles, nor to undertake exhaustive research on any subject. Full name and address and enclose two cents in stamps for return postage. Write your question plainly and briefly. All replies are sent direct to the inquirer.)

Q. Is a party, liable to prosecution, who makes a patented article for his own use and does not offer it for sale? W. B. O.

A. The United States Patent Office says that any individual who makes an article patented by some one else, even for his own consumption and not for sale, is violating the laws of the United States Patent Office, and is liable to prosecution.

Q. What chapter in the Bible has four verses alike?

A. The 197th Psalm contains the same verse in four places.

Q. How heavy a rain constitutes a cloudburst? D. I. A.

A. This term was first applied in the United States about 1840; in India, about 1840. No definite amount of rain has been assigned as the limit between a cloudburst and a heavy rain, but a review of special storms so designated seems to fix the minimum at about six inches of rain, falling at the rate of 10 inches an hour. Cloudbursts are confined to small areas, the heaviest usually covering little more than an acre, the lighter ones perhaps a square mile.

Q. What is the pronunciation and meaning of the name "Cienfuegos?" T. B. F.

A. The name of this Cuban city is a Spanish word meaning "burned" and is pronounced as if spelled syen-fway-gos.

Q. What is meant by the expression "to unlock the atom?" A. McM.

A. The expression "to unlock the atom," is usually interpreted as follows: According to the atomic theory an atom is a minute indivisible particle. To unlock the atom is another way of saying—to achieve the impossible, to divide the indivisible.

Q. Is it true that the American Army of Occupation in Germany requires German women to do their laundry work? W. F.

A. The war department says that the army units in the American Army of Occupation have their own laundry companies, and do not have the work done by German citizens. The soldiers themselves compose these companies.

Q. Please repeat the formula for making paint used on the White House. W. M.

A. This paint is made of white lead, 70 per cent; French white zinc, 30 per cent, and enough raw linseed oil to produce a proper consistency.

Q. Did Pope Sixtus precede Pope Gregory? F. J. H.

A. Sixtus was Pope from 254 to 259, while Gregory I was Pope from 590 to 604.

Q. What country exports the most silk? A. A. H.

A. The bureau of foreign and domestic commerce says that British Honduras leads all other countries in exporting silk and silk materials. The value of silk and silk material exported by British Honduras in 1919 was \$7,004,023.

Q. Does it expedite matters for a man to come to Washington to look after the securing of a patent? F. F. F.

A. The patent office does not advise an inventor to come to Washington in regard to the patenting of his invention. It advises an inventor to secure the assistance of a reliable patent attorney.

Q. Who was known as the Busybody? H. L.

A. This was the nom de plume signed by Benjamin Franklin to a series of papers written in the manner of Addison's Spectator. They appeared at the time of his purchase of the Philadelphia Gazette.

A "SIMP-OSIUM"
"John, what is a symposium?"
"Often," my dear, it's when a lot of simps assume the pose of understanding what they are writing about."—Boston Transcript.

THE QUICK AND THE DEAD

By Dr. William E. Barton

We are not sure that we know where to draw the line between the living and the dead. We have been told about things that are "as dead as a door-nail," but now come men who say to us that in that sense the door-nail is not dead; that nothing is dead that has not lived. They say that death can only be predicated of something that has had life, and hence may still have the potency of life. They say that thus death is a phase, and so far as they can discover, a final phase, of life; but that it belongs to life and not to things that have never lived.

But even so they are not sure that the door-nail is wholly non-living. They have found it difficult to determine where the laws begin to operate which in the higher spheres we know as within the realm of life.

The atom, which was only yesterday supposed to be indivisible and inert mass, takes on new dignity as the home of two forms of energy, a positive kind and a negative kind; and all the problems of the universe seem to be inherent in it.

Tennyson was sure that if he could know all that was in the life-story of the "flower in the crannied wall" he would know all the mysteries, human and divine. Apparently he was well within the truth.

If he could have known the laws which infallibly crystallize the snow-flakes under the unfailing rule of six, yet with no two snow-flakes ever made alike, he would know something so inclusive that the knowledge might explain all mysteries.

Every spring I plant a little garden. I drive a stick at the end of each row or section, and upon it I place the empty envelope in which the seeds came; and I say, "These seeds are very small and inexperienced; they can hardly be expected to know that we desire this row to be radishes and this one to be lettuce; we will show them what they are intended to be."

But they know already. That is the everlasting wonder of it. There is in them, tiny as they are, the power beyond all human knowledge of interpretation, which enables them to bring forth, each after its kind.

We know not the boundaries or the limits of life. It is lord of all that we know as dead or lifeless. It has in it a spark of the soul of the universe. Perhaps if we knew all, we should find that nothing is dead; that life is the one immortal substance, the one indestructible entity; the one guarantee of perpetuity. And character is the noblest thing in life.